

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC 1. 3rd Aeroclub Bautzen2. Air Gunnery at Weisskolm-Geisslitz Firing RangeEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTE

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DATE OBTAINED

17 October 1955

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REFERENCES

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto. with legend

REMARKS

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. The former Husaren Kaserne, on Kaethe Kollwitz Strasse in Bautzen was occupied by the 3rd Aeroclub Bautzen, with its headquarters and 2 subordinated units, (Abteilungen), in addition to the 3rd Tech Base. A third unit of the 3rd Aeroclub was located in Kamenz. The guard company of the 3rd Tech Base furnished the guard personnel for Husaren Kaserne and Bautzen-Litten airfield.

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About 200 pilots were assigned to this Aeroclub. A total of 22 to 23 Yak-11s were stationed at Bautzen-Litten airfield.^{2 1}

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2. Air gunnery by Yak-11s, fitted with machine gun camera was started at Weisskolm-Geisslitz firing range, in late July 1954. A machine gun camera, with a film for 36 pictures was fitted in the lower part of the engine hood. For observing air gunnery, a detail from the firing range was detached each time. In the evening, the films were developed in Bautzen and subsequently sent to the headquarters of the 3rd Aeroclub for evaluation. On same days, about 10 aircraft approached the firing range up to 4 times. The aircraft individually took off from Bautzen and assembled in 3 flights over the airfield. The formation was usually led by an instructor who had received pilot training in the USSR, and occasionally by Lieutenant Colonel Wilpert (), commander of the Aeroclub. The instructor directed the formation to the firing range and, by voice-radio communication, gave the order to disperse formation in echelon to the right. All aircraft made left banks over the firing range at intervals of 200 to 300 meters. They flew in staggered formation, the first Yak-11 flying at an altitude of about 300 meters and the ninth aircraft at about 400 meters. The instructor, who simultaneously approached the field, flew over the formation, in order to observe the firing procedure. The aircraft approached the targets at an altitude of 300 to 400 meters and an angle of 43 degrees, pulling out of dive at about 120 meters. Firing was done through the mirror reflex sight, from a distance of 400 to 200 meters. After firing, the pilot climbed and joined the end of the formation, which was flying left banks.²

3. The targets at the field were represented, by the contours of aircraft cut into the sod and filled with white sand. The fuselage and wings were 10 meters long. The target area was a square with areas 1 and 2 around the middle section of the fuselage. It was requested that about 20 percent of the hits lay within area 1 of the square and 60 percent within area 2. After misses, a repetition of the exercise was permitted. On the first approach, only about 20 percent of the pilots fulfilled the requested conditions.²

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
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4. The runway at Bautzen-Litten airfield was about 1,200 meters long and covered with steel mats.

1.  Comment. The statements on Bautzen Aeroclub and the 3rd Tech Base confirm available information. No exact data on the number of pilots assigned to an Aeroclub have been received so far. It is believed that each Aeroclub has an authorized strength of about 120 pilots. Provided that the reported number of 200 pilots includes the pilot candidates, this number appears to be correct.

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2.  Comment. For sketches of Weisskorn-Geissnitz firing range and dummy target with 2 target areas, see Annex. The detailed information on training in firing appears credible. It is believed that smaller formations also approach the field for firing.

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3.  Comment. According to available information, the auxiliary runway at Bautzen-Litten airfield has a length of 2,200 meters.

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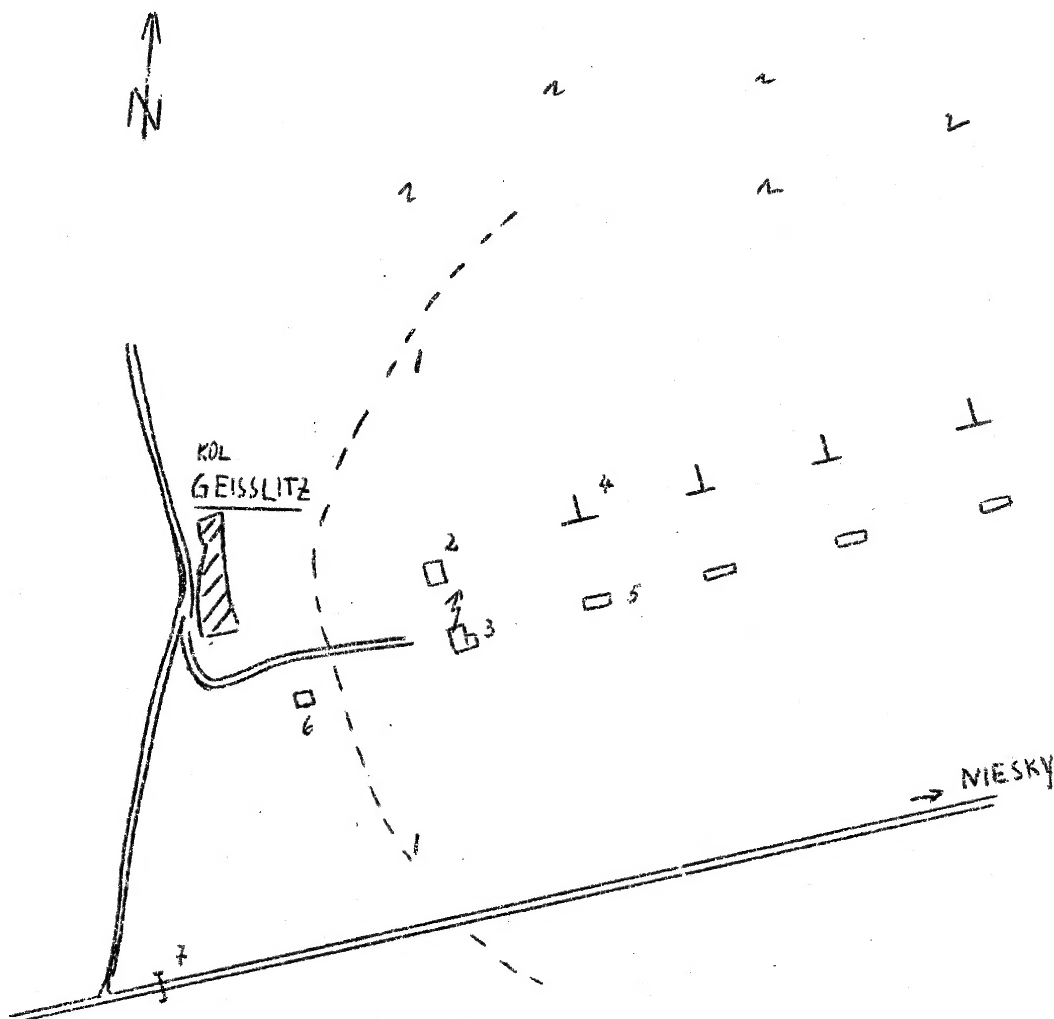
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ANNEX

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Weisskolm-Geisslitz Firing Range

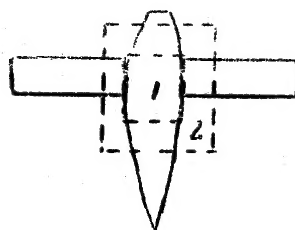
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Legend:

- 1 Border of firing range
- 2 High lookout post
- 3 Radio truck
- 4 Targets
- 5 Signalling disk
- 6 Forrester's house
- 7 Barrier

Dummy Target



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